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Anglo-American Relations

Concerning the Origin of the PILGRIMS SOCIETY



As a Matter of Insuring Historical
Accuracy, the within Record
is Published

FRED V. S. CROSBY
120 Broadway, New York, N. Y.



EARL ROBERTS

*Paris Edition, New York Herald
July 12, 1902*

PILGRIMS TO HAVE A RESTING PLACE.

Steps Taken in London for Formation
of an Anglo-American
Club.

MEETING AT CARLTON HOTEL.

Plan of Organization Outlined by Mr.
Lindsay Russell Approved and
Committee Appointed.

[BY THE HERALD'S SPECIAL WIRE]

LONDON, Saturday.—A meeting was held at the Carlton Hotel yesterday, when the first steps were taken in the formation of an Anglo-American Club, to be known as "The Pilgrims."

General Joseph Wheeler presided, Mr. H. E. V. Brittain acted as secretary and some forty men were present.

The object of the club and a plan of organization were outlined by Mr. Lindsay Russell, of New York, who has been the principal mover in the matter. Mr. Hamilton McCormick, Colonel Mahan, (of the British army), Mr. Oliver Hereford, Mr. Frank A. Munsey, and Mr. James McDonald all spoke in unqualified praise of the idea and were in favor of immediate steps being taken for the organization of the club upon the lines suggested by Mr. Russell, and which have already been set forth in the HERALD.

MCLAUGHLIN, RUSSELL, COE & SPRAGUE
CITY INVESTING BUILDING, 165 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

FREDERICK C. MCLAUGHLIN
LINDSAY RUSSELL
WALTER E. COE
RUFUS W. SPRAGUE, JR.
EDWARD P. SHARRETT
ROBERT H. HILLIS

December 18, 1919.

Mr. Frederic V. S. Crosby,
Union Pacific Railroad Co.
120 Broadway, New York City.

Dear Mr. Crosby:

Referring to your enquiry concerning the Pilgrims Society, which was formed for the purpose of bringing together at intervals statesmen and informed men of the United States and Great Britain and of affording a sort of Board of Hospitality as a means of fostering friendship, I may say that perhaps no one individual could be said to have founded it. The common law rule that it takes three or more to make a mob is perhaps applicable to a Society. However, those who co-operated and contributed most in the formative period were:

LONDON

General Joseph Wheeler
Albert S. Crockett
(Correspondent, N. Y. Herald)
George T. Wilson
Milton B. Snyder
(of the N. Y. Herald)
Walter Neef
(of the Associated Press)
Louis C. Hay
... Arthur Barratt
Frank A. Munsey
L. N. Ford
(of the N. Y. Tribune)
H. R. Chamberlain
(of the N. Y. Sun)
E. A. C. Smith
H. E. Brittain

NEW YORK

Bishop Potter
William Butler Duncan
George T. Wilson
R. A. C. Smith
Herbert Noble
Robert J. Mooney
F. Cunliffe-Owen

Mr. Choate, who was Ambassador to England at the time, declined to support the Society in its initial stages on account of the opposition of the American Society of London.

With this I send the ancestral tree of the Pilgrims.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the unremitting interest and activity during the past fifteen years of George T. Wilson and R. A. C. Smith of New York and Sir Harry E. Brittain of London in directing and articulating the work of the two branches of the Pilgrims.

Very sincerely yours,

LINDSAY RUSSELL.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
% QUANSIONS, LONDON.

QUEEN ANNE'S MANSIONS,
ST JAMES' PARK, S.W.

July 10th 1902

My dear Mr Russell

I have just

received a nice letter
from Lord Roberts.

He commends your idea
& will assist in the
future but will be
in Southampton to-morrow.

to meet Lord Kitchener.

Sincerely
Yours
Joseph W. Allen



WAR OFFICE
LONDON/SAW

17th July 1902.

Dear General Wheeler.

I beg to thank you for your letters of the 14th and 16th instant in regard to the formation of an International Club. As I have already informed you, I am in favour of this scheme, and will endeavour to preside, if possible, at the meeting which it is proposed to hold at the Carlton Hotel next week. I am engaged on the 25th and 26th.

Before anything definite is settled would it not be advisable to ascertain what Mr Chamberlain's views are regarding the proposed club? Its success would, I think, depend a good deal on his supporting it.

Believe me,

Yours very truly
Roberts

Major General J. Wheeler,
United States Army.

47, PORTLAND PLACE, W.

11th March 1903.

Dear Mr. Russell.

I will, with pleasure,
lunch with the members
of the Executive Committee
of the Pilgrims, who will
from America, at the
Carlton on Wednesday the
18th March - if that will be
a convenient day to you

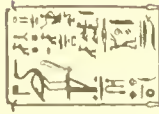
Yours sincerely

Robert.



TELEGRAMS
AND
STATION

DITCHINGHAM.



Oct 76-1902
DITCHINGHAM HOUSE,
NORFOLK.

Dear Mr. Russell,

The only suggestion
that occurs to me with
reference to the device for
the Pilgrims Club is, that
perhaps the scroll-work
might be kept somewhat
lighter - I mean, made a
little less apparent - as

at present I think it ^{rather} detracts
from the main design, especially
in the lower part.

The mixture of the mediaeval
or 20th Century methods
is, I think, happily combined
I, too, regret that I could
not accept the kind invitation
for yesterday.

Believe me

Yours truly

W. H. Russell

To
Lindsay Russell Esq.

Washington Barracks, D. C.,
December 4, 1919.

Mr. Frederic V. S. Crosby,
Union Pacific R. R. Company,
120 Broadway, New York City.

Dear Sir:

My father, General Joseph Wheeler, and I while on a visit to London in the summer of 1902 were in frequent intercourse with Mr. Lindsay Russell, a family friend. It was at Mr. Russell's office at 3 Finch Lane, London, that my father first saw the plan of organization of the Pilgrims Society and received an invitation to cooperate therein. Later he called on Lord Roberts and presented the idea to him and got his approval. He subsequently called upon several other distinguished Englishmen to extend the invitation of the Society to its first banquet.

Mr. Harry Brittain, who was a clerk in Mr. Russell's office at that time, first met my father there.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH WHEELER, Jr.

Colonel, U. S. A.

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ALEXANDER MALCOLM

ART. DIR. TOR.

December 3, 1919.

Mr. Frederic V. L. Crosby,
Union Pacific Railway Co.,
165 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your inquiry concerning the Society of the Pilgrims, I may say that as a correspondent of the New York Herald in London during the year 1902, I know the following to be facts:

The man who conceived the idea of such an organization was Mr. Lindsay Russell, a member of the bar of New York, who at that time had an office in London. Before he proceeded to put his plan into execution, Mr. Russell spoke to me several times about the need for a society whose purpose should be to foster Anglo-American friendship, and even outlined how and by whose aid he expected to bring such an association into being. He was chairman of the organization committee of the Pilgrims in London, and it is my understanding that he was one of those most active in the formation of the American organization in New York. I know that his London Office in Finch Lane was for some time the headquarters of the Society.

Sir Harry Brittain has played a very active part in the development of the Pilgrims, but it is unfair to him as well as to others, that he should be called the "founder" of the Society. When I first knew Harry Brittain, he was in the employ of Mr. Russell, and the latter told me at the time he had engaged the young Englishman to do some special work for him.

Sir Harry did not found the Pilgrims; it would be nearer correct to say that the Pilgrims founded Sir Harry. At any rate, he saw his great opportunity when it was offered, and it is highly creditable to him that he seized it, for it gave him the chance to come eventually into close touch with the leading men of at least two countries, and actually provided a means to a career for which by education and disposition he was eminently suited. For the development of the Pilgrims in England, a great share of the credit must go to the energy, tact and resourcefulness of Sir Harry; but the founder of the Society was an American.

Yours very truly,

ASC.

ALBERT S. CROCKETT.

LONDON TIMES

JUNE 19, 1903

In an article concerning the annual dinner of the Pilgrims Society held at Princes' Restaurant, Picadilly, the Archdeacon of London presiding, the Times says:

"Sir Gilbert Parker proposed "the Pilgrims" and Mr. Lindsay Russell, founder of the Society, who was presented by the Chairman with a silver loving cup in token of his services, responded."

THE WORLD, LONDON

JUNE 23, 1903, says:

"The Annual Dinner of the Pilgrims at Princes' on Friday had one pleasing incident of which I should like to speak. It was the presentation to Mr. Lindsay Russell, the founder of the Pilgrims both here and in New York, of a magnificent silver loving cup appropriately inscribed. Mr. Russell sails for New York to-day after a stay in England of nearly two years."



